

§ 56. Administrative offsets**(a) Offset authority**

A contracting officer of a contracting agency may offset the amount of a kickback provided, accepted, or charged in violation of section 53 of this title against any moneys owed by the United States to the prime contractor under the prime contract to which such kickback relates.

(b) Duties of prime contractor

(1) Upon direction of a contracting officer of a contracting agency with respect to a prime contract, the prime contractor shall withhold from any sums owed to a subcontractor under a subcontract of the prime contract the amount of any kickback which was or may be offset against that prime contractor under subsection (a) of this section.

(2) Such contracting officer may order that sums withheld under paragraph (1)—

(A) be paid over to the contracting agency; or

(B) if the United States has already offset the amount of such sums against that prime contractor, be retained by the prime contractor.

(3) The prime contractor shall notify the contracting officer when an amount is withheld and retained under paragraph (2)(B).

(c) Claim of Government

An offset under subsection (a) of this section or a direction or order of a contracting officer under subsection (b) of this section is a claim by the Government for the purposes of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 [41 U.S.C. 601 et seq.].

(d) “Contracting officer” defined

As used in this section, the term “contracting officer” has the meaning given that term for the purposes of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 [41 U.S.C. 601 et seq.].

(Mar. 8, 1946, ch. 80, §6, as added Pub. L. 99-634, §2(a), Nov. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 3524.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Contract Disputes Act of 1978, referred to in subsections (c) and (d), is Pub. L. 95-563, Nov. 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 2383, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 9 (§601 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code see Short Title note set out under section 601 of this title and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective with respect to conduct described in section 53 of this title which occurs on or after Nov. 7, 1986, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 99-634, set out as an Effective Date of 1986 Amendment note under section 51 of this title.

§ 57. Contractor responsibilities**(a) Procedural requirements for prevention and detection of violations**

Each contracting agency shall include in each prime contract awarded by such agency a requirement that the prime contractor shall have in place and follow reasonable procedures designed to prevent and detect violations of section 53 of this title in its own operations and direct business relationships.

(b) Cooperation in investigations requirement

Each contracting agency shall include in each prime contract awarded by such agency a re-

quirement that the prime contractor shall cooperate fully with any Federal Government agency investigating a violation of section 53 of this title.

(c) Reporting requirement; supplying information as favorable evidence of responsibility

(1)(A) Whenever a prime contractor or subcontractor has reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of section 53 of this title may have occurred, the prime contractor or subcontractor shall promptly report the possible violation in writing.

(B) A contractor shall make the reports required by subparagraph (A) to the inspector general of the contracting agency, the head of the contracting agency if the agency does not have an inspector general, or the Department of Justice.

(2) In the case of an administrative or contractual action to suspend or debar any person who is eligible to enter into contracts with the Federal Government, evidence that such person has supplied information to the United States pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be favorable evidence of such person's responsibility for the purposes of Federal procurement laws and regulations.

(d) Partial inapplicability to small contracts

Subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to a prime contract that is not greater than \$100,000 or to a prime contract for the acquisition of commercial items (as defined in section 403(12) of this title).

(e) Cooperation in investigations regardless of contract amount

Notwithstanding subsection (d) of this section, a prime contractor shall cooperate fully with any Federal Government agency investigating a violation of section 53 of this title.

(Mar. 8, 1946, ch. 80, §7, as added Pub. L. 99-634, §2(a), Nov. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 3525; amended Pub. L. 103-355, title IV, §4104(a), title VIII, §8301(c)(1), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3341, 3397; Pub. L. 104-106, div. D, title XLIII, §4321(g), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 675.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-106 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 403(12) of this title and struck out second period at end.

1994—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-355, §8301(c)(1), inserted before period at end “or to a prime contract for the acquisition of commercial items (as defined in section 403(12) of this title).”

Pub. L. 103-355, §4104(a), added subsec. (d).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-355, §4104(a), added subsec. (e).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

For effective date and applicability of amendment by Pub. L. 104-106, see section 4401 of Pub. L. 104-106, set out as a note under section 251 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

For effective date and applicability of amendment by Pub. L. 103-355, see section 10001 of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as a note under section 251 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subsecs. (a) and (b) effective with respect to contract solicitations issued by an agency, department, or other

establishment of the Federal Government on or after the date which is 90 days after Nov. 7, 1986, and subsec. (c) effective with respect to conduct described in section 53 of this title which occurs on or after Nov. 7, 1986, see section 3 of Pub. L. 99-634, set out as an Effective Date of 1986 Amendment note under section 51 of this title.

§ 58. Inspection authority

For the purpose of ascertaining whether there has been a violation of section 53 of this title with respect to any prime contract, the Government Accountability Office and the inspector general of the contracting agency, or a representative of such contracting agency designated by the head of such agency if the agency does not have an inspector general, shall have access to and may inspect the facilities and audit the books and records, including any electronic data or records, of any prime contractor or subcontractor under a prime contract awarded by such agency. This section does not apply with respect to a prime contract for the acquisition of commercial items (as defined in section 403(12) of this title).

(Mar. 8, 1946, ch. 80, § 8, as added Pub. L. 99-634, § 2(a), Nov. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 3525; amended Pub. L. 103-355, title VIII, § 8301(c)(2), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3397; Pub. L. 108-271, § 8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.)

AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-355 inserted at end “This section does not apply with respect to a prime contract for the acquisition of commercial items (as defined in section 403(12) of this title).”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

For effective date and applicability of amendment by Pub. L. 103-355, see section 10001 of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as a note under section 251 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective with respect to conduct described in section 53 of this title which occurs on or after Nov. 7, 1986, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 99-634, set out as an Effective Date of 1986 Amendment note under section 51 of this title.

CHAPTER 2—TERMINATION OF WAR CONTRACTS

Sec.	
101.	Declaration of policy.
102.	Surveillance by Congress.
103.	Definitions.
104.	Administration of chapter.
105.	Contract Settlement Advisory Board; composition; duties.
106.	Basis for settlement of termination claims.
107.	Settlement of subcontractors' claims.
108.	Interim financing.
109.	Advance or partial payments to subcontractors; excessive payments, interest, liability of war contractor.
110.	Guarantee of loans, advances, etc.
111.	Termination of contracts.
112.	Removal and storage of materials.
113.	Appeals.
114.	Court of Federal Claims.
115.	Personal financial liability of contracting officers.
116.	Repealed.

Sec.	
117.	Defective, informal, and quasi contracts.
118.	Administration.
119.	Fraudulent claims, vouchers, statements, etc.; jurisdiction.
120.	Powers and duties of contracting agencies.
121.	Administrator of General Services; additional duties.
122.	Use of appropriated funds.
123.	Delegation of authority by Administrator of General Services.
124.	Effective date; applicability to lend lease contracts.
125.	Exemption of certain contracts outside continental United States or in Alaska.

§ 101. Declaration of policy

The Congress declares that the objectives of this chapter are—

(a) to facilitate maximum war production during the war, and to expedite reconversion from war production to civilian production as war conditions permit;

(b) to assure to prime contractors and subcontractors, small and large, speedy and equitable final settlement of claims under terminated war contracts, and adequate interim financing until such final settlement;

(c) to assure uniformity among Government agencies in basic policies and administration with respect to such termination settlements and interim financing;

(d) to facilitate the efficient use of materials, manpower, and facilities for war and civilian purposes by providing prime contractors and subcontractors with notice of termination of their war contracts as far in advance of the cessation of work thereunder as is feasible and consistent with the national security;

(e) to assure the expeditious removal from the plants of prime contractors and subcontractors of termination inventory not to be retained or sold by the contractor;

(f) to use all practicable methods compatible with the foregoing objectives to prevent improper payments and to detect and prosecute fraud.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 358, § 1, 58 Stat. 649.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 27 of act July 1, 1944, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Contract Settlement Act of 1944’.”

SEPARABILITY

Section 26 of act July 1, 1944, provided: “If any provision of this Act [enacting this chapter], or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby.”

§ 102. Surveillance by Congress

(a) To assist the Congress in appraising the administration of this chapter and in developing such amendments or related legislation as may further be necessary to accomplish the objectives of this chapter, the appropriate committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall study each report submitted to the Congress under this chapter and shall otherwise maintain continuous surveillance of the oper-